

B L O O M I N G T O N BRIEFING



JUNE 2015

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A sure sign that summer is upon us, the ninth annual Bloomington Farmers Market opens on Saturday, June 6. The Farmers Market runs every Saturday, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. through October 17. Stop by for locally grown produce, flowers, breads and more. Visit the City's website for more information.

EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR BLOOMINGTON'S TRASH AND RECYCLING SERVICES

For many years, the City of Bloomington has offered a partially organized collection service in which garbage haulers are required to be licensed and homeowners negotiate a contract with the Bloomington licensed hauler of their choice. However, rising costs and feedback from residents concerning noise pollution, litter, number of garbage hauler trucks, and wear and tear on neighborhood streets has prompted the Bloomington City Council to explore options for a fully organized collection service.

The City currently has seven licensed haulers. Costs vary from homeowner to homeowner for the same service. According to Public Works Director Karl Keel, if a fully organized collection system were implemented, the City would enter into a contract with a single hauler or small group of haulers that all homeowners would use.

Keel said an organized collection service would reduce the number of trucks needed to collect trash and recyclable materials from 21 to three, thus reducing neighborhood noise, environmental impacts and stress on Bloomington streets. An organized collection service also has the potential to save homeowners money.

Costs vary widely among homeowners

The City conducted a survey to find out how much Bloomington homeowners were paying for trash and recycling services and found that costs varied. The survey of nearly 300 homeowners showed prices as low as \$8 and as high as \$80 per month for the same service. So while most homeowners would likely pay less with organized collection, a small number could possibly pay more.

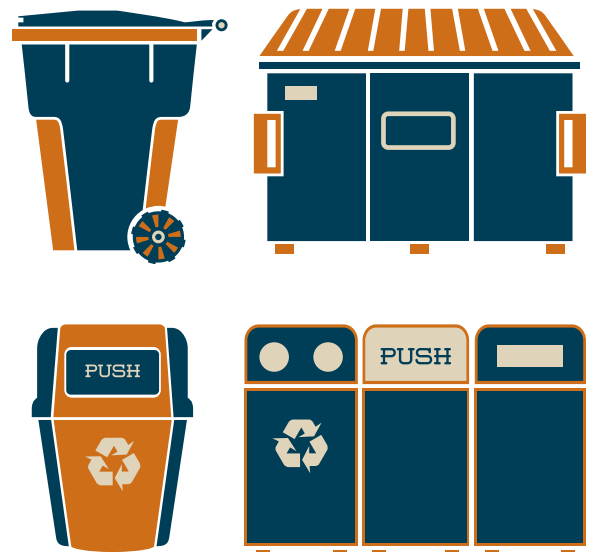
"The most compelling reason for an organized collection is cost," Keel said. "The average homeowner pays approximately \$27 per month for trash and recycling pick up. We know that for cities that have bid these services competitively, the average monthly cost is about \$14 per month for homeowners."

Creating a plan, gathering public input

The City prepared a Solid Waste Management Plan in 2013 that included a comprehensive assessment of the solid waste issues the City is facing. Two open houses were held this past spring to gather feedback from the public. In addition, an organized collection committee that includes three City councilmembers and two City employees was formed to solicit more competitive proposals from solid waste haulers and make recommendations to the City Council.

For more information, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ORGANIZED COLLECTION.



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FOUND ON facebook

Bloomington's police and fire dispatchers received a lot of love on Facebook during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in April. The week is a time to honor the voices at the other end of the 9-1-1 call and the staff who inform police and firefighters where and when to respond to an emergency. A photo album of Bloomington dispatchers posted to Facebook received more than 150 likes and dozens of positive comments.

The City's Facebook page now has more than 2,400 fans. Connect with the City on Facebook by visiting Facebook/blm.mn.



HERE’S TO YOUR HEALTH

Policies on nutrition and tobacco use were enacted in January that will help make it easier for visitors and employees of the City to be healthy. The policies were implemented June 1, and over the next several months the City will inform staff and visitors of the new policies and put up signs to educate the public about the changes.



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Nutrition policy

The next time you attend a City-sponsored event or visit a concession stand in Bloomington, you’ll find a variety of healthier snack choices. Bloomington Public Health helped to establish nutrition guidelines that require at least 40 percent of food and beverages offered at City-operated concessions to be healthier. Implementation of this policy has already begun at many of the City’s concession stands.

“It’s not about telling people what to eat,” said Public Health Specialist Joan Bulfer. “It’s about adding healthier choices to traditional not-so-healthy concessions menus. Favorite treats will still be available, but in some cases they may be smaller. Part of this is about breaking away from super-sized unhealthy snacks that many experts believe is contributing to rising obesity numbers in the U.S.”

Tobacco policy

This policy, approved in January, bans the use of tobacco and tobacco products on City-owned property. The policy was designed to ensure work environments are conducive to personal health and well-being. Tobacco products that are banned on City property include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, pipes, e-cigarettes and other forms of smoked and smokeless tobacco products.

Tobacco use is prohibited outside all City-owned and leased buildings, including parking lots and sidewalks adjacent to City buildings and property, in City-owned vehicles and equipment and at City-sponsored events on City grounds.

Individuals may smoke while inside their personal vehicles on City property.

For more information about these policies, contact Public Health Administrator Bonnie Paulsen at bpaulsen@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8905.



PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY
A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The 32nd annual National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 4, in neighborhoods throughout Bloomington. Each year, Neighborhood Watch Block Captains organize block parties to celebrate our neighborhoods and connect with local law enforcement. Visit the City’s website for more information.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: NNO.

DRIVE YOUR BICYCLE SAFELY

Do you ride your bike or drive your bike? There’s a difference. The Minnesota Department of Transportation and Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota believe that cyclists should treat their bicycles like vehicles by being conscious of their surroundings and following the rules of the road. Below are some tips to help you drive your bicycle safely.

- Follow the law—obey traffic signs and signals.
- Be predictable—maintain a straight course.
- Communicate your intent—look, yield to traffic and signal before turning.
- See and be seen—wear bright colors, reflective gear and use lights.
- Protect your head—wear a helmet.
- Always yield to pedestrians.
- Avoid distracted bicycling—put away mobile devices.

For more information, visit BikeMN.org.



Bloomington residents Bob Peters, Nancy Schuett and John Schatzlein, pictured left to right in chairs, attend a National Spinal Cord Injury Association conference in 1982.

CELEBRATING HUMAN RIGHTS

Join the Human Rights Commission on Thursday, July 23, 6 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Enjoy a free screening of a special documentary on the history of the ADA in Minnesota. To register, call 952-563-4944 or email reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov.

COUNTRY DINNER AND DANCE

Human Services invites you to spend a rip-roaring evening at the 50+ Country-Western Dinner and Dance, Friday, June 26, 6–9:30 p.m., at the Bloomington Armory, 3300 West 98th Street. Tickets are \$15 each and include line dance lessons followed by dinner and dancing to the Saddle Sores. Purchase tickets by Friday, June 19 by calling 952-563-4944 or visiting Creekside Community Center.

BRIEFING

Volume 23, Number 3

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY: 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-mail: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS

We need bees and other insects to pollinate our fruits, nuts, vegetables, crops and native plants. In recent years, a complex set of factors has negatively affected honey bee populations in Minnesota, the U.S. and elsewhere. The proper use of pest control products can help maintain healthy plants and healthy pollinators. Some pesticides, including those in the class of neonicotinoids, may pose a serious risk to bees and other insects that benefit us. The City takes an environmentally sensitive approach to pest control. Integrated pest management best practices consider the life cycles and weaknesses of pests in order to manage them effectively at the lowest risk to people, property and the environment. For example, the City’s golf courses have converted traditional turf areas to native plantings that include a variety of flowering plants desired by pollinators. In addition, the City has planted rain gardens on many City-owned properties to help control stormwater runoff and create habitats attractive to birds, bees and butterflies. Residents can also do their part to help protect the environment and pollinators. According to Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Dave Hanson, the most important thing residents can do is reduce or eliminate chemical treatments and use nontoxic lawn and garden chemicals instead. “More and more stores are carrying nontoxic lawn and garden care products,” he said. “Look for natural, organic or slow-release ingredients. These products tend to create healthier plants with stronger root systems and less excessive top growth, saving you time and money. They are safer for pets and kids to play on, too.” For more information, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: LAWN CARE.

DON’T FORGET SCRUFFY!

Pets left in hot cars suffer. Never leave an animal in a parked vehicle when the weather outside is warm. Vehicle temperatures can reach 120 degrees or more in just minutes during the spring and summer months, even when the vehicle’s windows are partially open. In high temperatures, animals can suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke or suffocation. Minnesota State Law prohibits leaving an animal unattended in a vehicle that may endanger the health or welfare of the animal. Call 911 immediately if you observe an animal in distress. For more information, call Animal Control at 952-563-4942.

FREE HOME IMPROVEMENT SEMINARS

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority will host three home improvement seminars this summer on Thursdays, June 18, July 16 and August 27, 7 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

June 18—Lawn Care and Maintenance

Home Depot’s Master Gardener Brad Phillips will present tips on lawn maintenance. Learn about planting, fertilizing, mowing and watering your grass to keep your lawn healthy.

July 16—Bath Remodeling

Lynn Monson of Dream Maker Bath and Kitchen will present innovative solutions to cost effectively change your bathroom. View before and after pictures and learn about the latest trends and technologies in bath remodeling.

August 27—Basement Waterproofing

Tony Reick of Reick’s Landscaping and Waterproofing will help you solve your basement waterproofing and drainage problems. Learn about grading, gutter water control, window wells and other ways to keep your basement dry.

SERVE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE

Are you looking for ways to give back to your community? Consider serving as an election judge. The Bloomington City Clerk’s Office is seeking eligible residents to work as election judges on August 11 and November 3 in one of Bloomington’s 32 precincts. Adults and students ages 16 and older are encouraged to apply. Training is provided.

For more information, visit the City’s website or call 952-563-8729.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ELECTION JUDGES.



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MOTOR VEHICLE HOURS CHANGE

Bloomington’s Motor Vehicle Office service hours have changed. Note the new hours below.

- Mondays 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Tuesdays–Fridays 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

True or False? Drivers have a 10-day grace period before they must renew their tabs.

Answer: False. Tabs must be purchased by the last day of the month they are due and displayed by the 10th of the following month.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: MOTOR VEHICLE.

HIRING A CONTRACTOR

You are finally ready to begin that long-awaited home improvement project. Your next big decision is hiring a contractor. In Minnesota, building permits can be issued to either a licensed contractor or to the homeowner. Here’s what you need to know before beginning a major home improvement project.

Applying for a permit

If you decide to apply for the permit yourself, you will be acting as an owner/builder. By taking out an owner/builder permit, you become the general contractor, which means you assume all the legal liabilities for the job, including workers’ compensation insurance, state and federal withholding taxes, permits, planning, problem-solving and scheduling inspections. If the work fails to meet City Code, you may be issued an order to correct violations.

Licensing requirements and consumer protection

Minnesota law requires that most residential building contractors, remodelers, roofers and manufactured-home installers be licensed by the state. Specialty contractors who perform only one skill (e.g., concrete and masonry, excavation or interior finishing) are exempt from state licensing. State licensing is intended to ensure a minimum level of competency and to afford consumer protection.

Hiring a licensed contractor

Here’s how you can determine whether a contractor has a state license: The license number must appear on a contractor’s business cards, contracts, proposals, vehicles and permit applications. Contractors are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Complaints should be referred to the Department of Labor and Industry at 651-284-5069. For more information, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CONTRACTORS.



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BEFORE OPENING YOUR DOOR TO SOLICITORS ...

Bloomington City Code requires all solicitors to carry a City-issued license and identification card when soliciting door to door. In addition, solicitors must not operate between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., enter a property with a posted “No Solicitation” or similar sign, or use aggressive sales tactics. Nonprofit, religious and political organizations are exempt from licensing, but must abide by hours and have proper identification.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SOLICITORS.

ARTS IN THE PARKS

Make it a summer to remember. Head over to your local Bloomington parks for the best in music, dance, food, film and family-friendly entertainment. For more information, or in the case of inclement weather, call Bloomington Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8878.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: AIP.

NORMANDALE LAKE PERFORMANCE SERIES

The following performances take place at Normandale Lake Bandshell, 84th Street and Chalet Road. All shows begin at 7 p.m. Bring your appetite! There will be a variety of food and drink options at summer Blockbusters highlighted below with fork and spoon icons.

TUE

June 16

Minnesota Symphonic Winds

Considered by many to be the finest concert band in the state, the Minnesota Symphonic Winds will provide a classical kick off to the performance series.

THUR

June 18

Celtic Soltice

The Todd Menton Band performs smooth Celtic melodies and rowdy, hand-clapping songs that celebrate Irish and English heritage.

TUE

June 23

The Tuxedo Band

The Tuxedo Band brings to the stage their high-energy performances of classic and contemporary rock, country and pop music.

THUR

June 25

British Invasion



Performing dance music from the 60s and 70s, Revolver & The Secret Agents bring retro style and sound to the stage for another British Invasion.

TUE

July 7

Sawtooth Brothers

The Sawtooth Brothers are sure to dazzle you with their precision picking and sharp harmonies rooted in traditional bluegrass and featuring contemporary acoustic sounds.

THUR

July 9

80s Music Explosion

The always-entertaining and versatile Urban Myth Band will bring your favorite 1980s music to life during the 80s Music Explosion.

TUE

July 14

Rhinestone Diplomats



The Rhinestone Diplomats are a five-piece rock band that has performed at some of Minnesota’s most legendary venues, including First Avenue.

THUR

July 16

Latin Music Night



Don’t miss Salsa del Soul perform sizzling dance music including Plena, Timba and Salsa.

TUE

July 21

Dakota Valley Symphony

The Dakota Vally Symphony includes a 60-member orchestra and a 40-member chorus that perform under the direction of music director Stephen Ramsey.

THUR

July 23

Rockin’ Hollywoods

The Rockin’ Hollywoods are sure to get you on your feet and on the dance floor with classic rock sounds from the 1950s through the 1980s.

TUE

July 28


Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1963, the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra is one of Minnesota’s premiere orchestras under the direction of Manny Laureano.

THUR

July 30

Suburban Country



From guitars to fiddles, the Geoff Elvee band will have your toes tapping all night long.

TUE

Aug 4

Continental Ballet Company

Continental Ballet Company will perform excerpts from several great classical ballets, including the princess dance from Swan Lake, a solo from Giselle and a short piece from Cinderella.

THUR

Aug 6

Blues and Bar-B-Q

The Paul Holland Band will get the party started with classics by Stevie Ray Vaughan and Aretha Franklin. Then the Groove Merchants are back, featuring the smooth vocals of Jimmy “Primetime” Smith.



SUMMER FETE IS BACK!



Bloomington’s annual Independence Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, July 3. The festivities begin at 5 p.m. at Normandale Lake Park, 84th Street and Normandale Boulevard. This year, the main stage entertainment features The Resonators, Power of 10 and the Bloomington Medalist Band. The 84th Street Kids’ Stage will welcome back Tricia and the Toonies and Rachel Kroog. The fireworks begin at dusk.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER FETE.

MONDAY MORNING KIDS’ SERIES

Wake up to Mondays at Moir Park! Bring the kids to Moir Park on select Monday mornings throughout the summer to enjoy music, dancing and other fun activities, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

- June 15—Sticks and Tones
- June 22—Minnesota Zoomobile
- June 29—Jack’s Kids Show
- July 6—Tricia and the Toonies
- July 13—Wiggle, Jiggle, and Jam
- July 20—Bob the Beachcomber
- July 27—Rachael Kroog
- August 3—Mike Monson

MOVIES IN THE PARK

This summer, check out a movie under the stars on our 30-foot screen, Friday nights at Normandale Lake Bandshell.

June and July movies begin at 9 p.m. August movies begin at 8:30 p.m.

- June 12—Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1
- June 19—Field of Dreams
- June 26—The Goonies
- July 10—The Lego Movie
- July 17—Big Hero 6
- July 24—101 Dalmatians
- July 31—Edge of Tomorrow
- August 7—Cinderella
- August 14—Guardians of the Galaxy
- August 21—Viewers’ Choice

WEBSITE KEYWORD: MOVIES.

MAKING SANDCASTLES IN THE SUN

Bring your buckets and shovels to the annual Sandcastles competition, Sunday, June 28, noon–3 p.m., at Bush Lake Beach.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SANDCASTLE.

JOHN PHILLIP SOUSA BAND

The John Phillip Sousa Band will perform patriotic classics, Sunday, June 21, 7 p.m., at the Gideon Pond House, Pond-Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street.

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CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, JUNE 2015

SHAPE^{of} THINGS^{to}COME



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WHEN YOU SEE "WEBSITE
KEYWORDS," GO TO
BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV FOR
MORE INFORMATION.

corporate report to the community

FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014, AND BUDGET YEAR 2015

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Last year was a year of many new starts. This year, we are already seeing a number of those developments, programs, projects and initiatives taking shape.

On the following pages, you'll learn more about development and redevelopment, our financial strength and the people and partnerships that shape the many facets of life in Bloomington. First, I'd like to take a look back at the accomplishments of 2014.

There can be no doubt that last year was a strong year for residential and hotel development. In fact, 2014 was another record year for the value of permits issued in Bloomington.

The City has also made many strides toward our vision for a better Bloomington. Progress continues, as evidenced by the many new businesses, hotels, restaurants and housing options in our city. In addition, many companies, such as Toro, Ziegler Cat and Luther Infiniti have expanded their facilities and operations in Bloomington.

For the third year in a row, we conducted a National Citizen Survey in Bloomington. The survey allows cities to compare their results to 500 communities nationwide. Overall, at least four out of five residents

gave "excellent" or "good" ratings to Bloomington's overall image, their neighborhoods as places to live, the city as a place to raise children and the community's overall appearance.

For the first time, we conducted a street repair survey. Through the survey, we received valuable feedback that will help us continue to improve our street maintenance and repair services while meeting the needs of the community. *See page CR 3*

The City Council adopted a property tax levy increase of four percent to \$49,971,775. This results in a monthly cost of tax-supported services for the owner of a \$206,900 median-valued home of \$71.66 for 2015. Four out of the past five years this monthly cost was \$67.82.

The increase of \$3.84 from 2014 is the result of a shift in tax base

value from commercial properties to residential properties. From 2013 to 2014, the median-valued home increased from \$188,000 to \$206,900, a growth of 10 percent.

The planning and public infrastructure groundwork the City completed during the downturn years is paying dividends now. Bloomington residents and businesses are seeing things taking shape as land use, housing, transportation, open space and public safety objectives are achieved.

As always, we continue to keep our focus on the future, carrying out the vision of the City's strategic plan, "Imagine Bloomington 2025," which will be our guide for development, redevelopment, services, infrastructure and fiscal sustainability.



Award for
Outstanding
Achievement in
Popular Annual
Financial Reporting

Presented to
**City of Bloomington
Minnesota**

For its Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2013

Jeffrey R. Egan
Executive Director/CEO

FINANCIAL AWARDS

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has given the City of Bloomington the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year that ended December 31, 2013. This national award recognizes the City's conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. The City has received the Popular Award for 14 years, the Distinguished Budget Award for 18 years and the Certificate of Excellence in Government Reporting for the past 43 years.

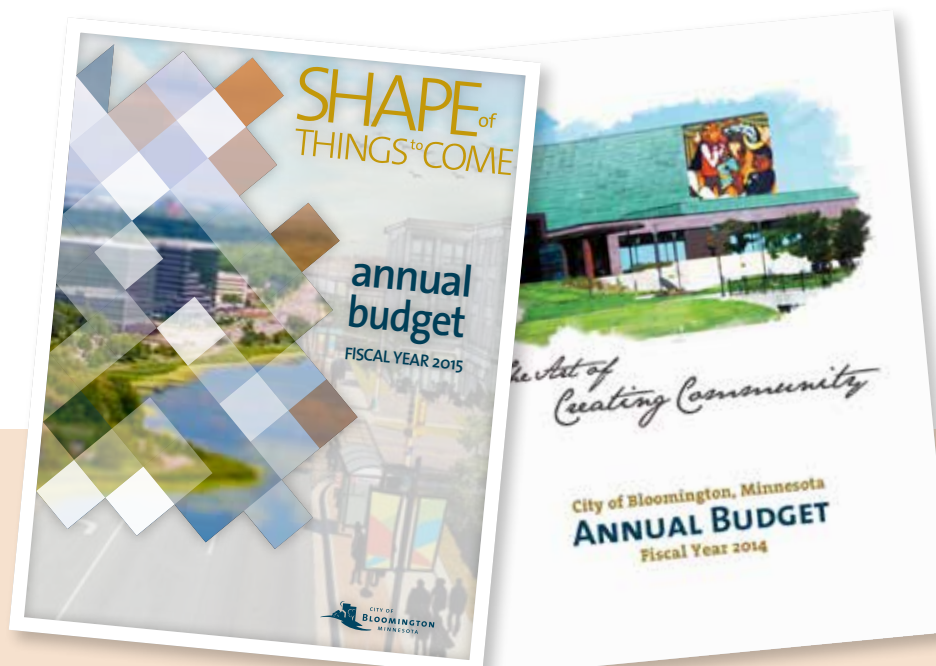
THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT

The monthly expenses for City services described in this report are based on a median-priced home with monthly property taxes for City services of \$71.66 in 2015.

FINANCIAL REPORTS ONLINE

Check out the financial reports on the City's website. The 2015 estimated expenditures in this report will be changed to reflect actual expenditures after the City's audit is completed in June.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: FINANCE.





CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Bloomington’s Charter provides for a council-manager government. The stability of our organization is reflected in the City having only two city managers in the last 47 years.

The city council and mayor, who serve part time, are elected by the people, exercise legislative power and determine overall City policies. Advisory boards and commissions gather information and advise the city council on specific issues.

The Housing Authority and Port Authority are responsible for redevelopment.

Policy development and day-to-day operations are directed by the council-appointed city manager. The city manager oversees the eight departments and the Technical Services Group that carry out the services, activities and policies of the City of Bloomington.

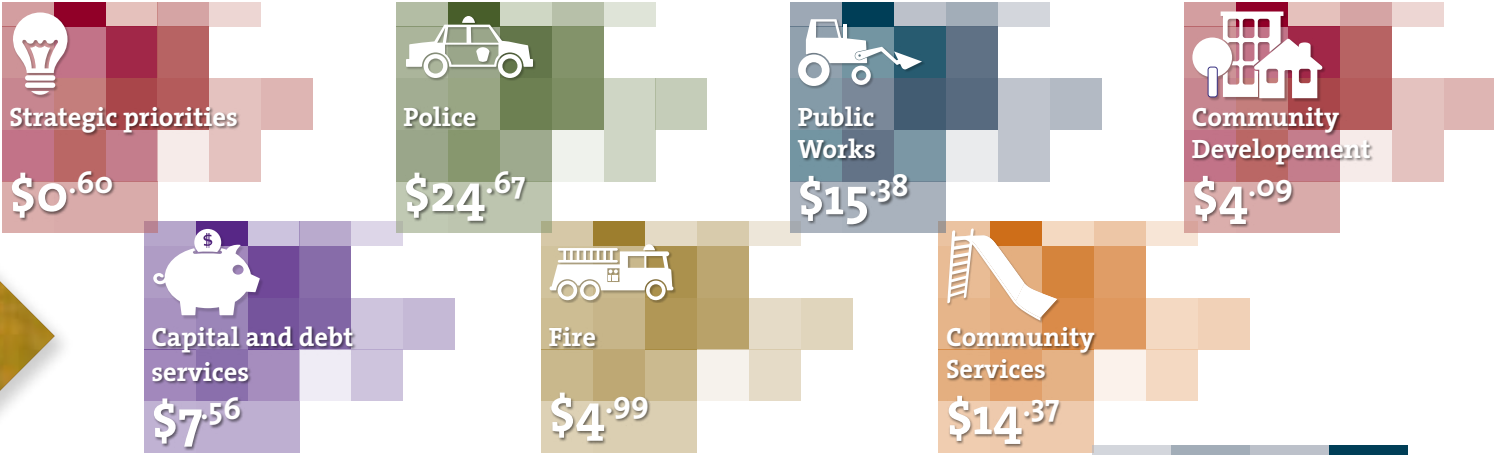


“Bloomington is a community that embraces and supports the important mission of nonprofits through a broad network of civic organizations, the faith community, businesses and individuals. Citizens develop integral relationships with each other toward the common goal of making life better for everyone.”

Meg Schnabel,
Executive Director,
Cornerstone



strong value for your dollar



PUTTING YOUR TAX DOLLARS TO WORK WHAT THE OWNER OF A MEDIAN-VALUE HOME PAYS

Residents receive a variety of City services for an affordable price. The cost of City services in 2015 for the owner of a median-priced, single-family home in Bloomington with an assessor’s market value of \$206,900 is \$71.66 per month. Tax-supported services are ranked by the City Council. Public Safety services such as Police and Fire activities are ranked highest for funding. Community Safety, Planning, Prevention and Maintenance are the next level of services to be funded. These include Engineering, Environmental Health, Planning, Parks Maintenance and Emergency Response. The third category is Quality of Life services such as Parks and Recreation, Human Services, Public Health, Aquatics, Special Events and the Center for the Arts. The tax cost per month of \$71.66 is the amount left for tax support after allocating grants, program fees, lodging and admission taxes and other non-property tax revenue to the appropriate services.

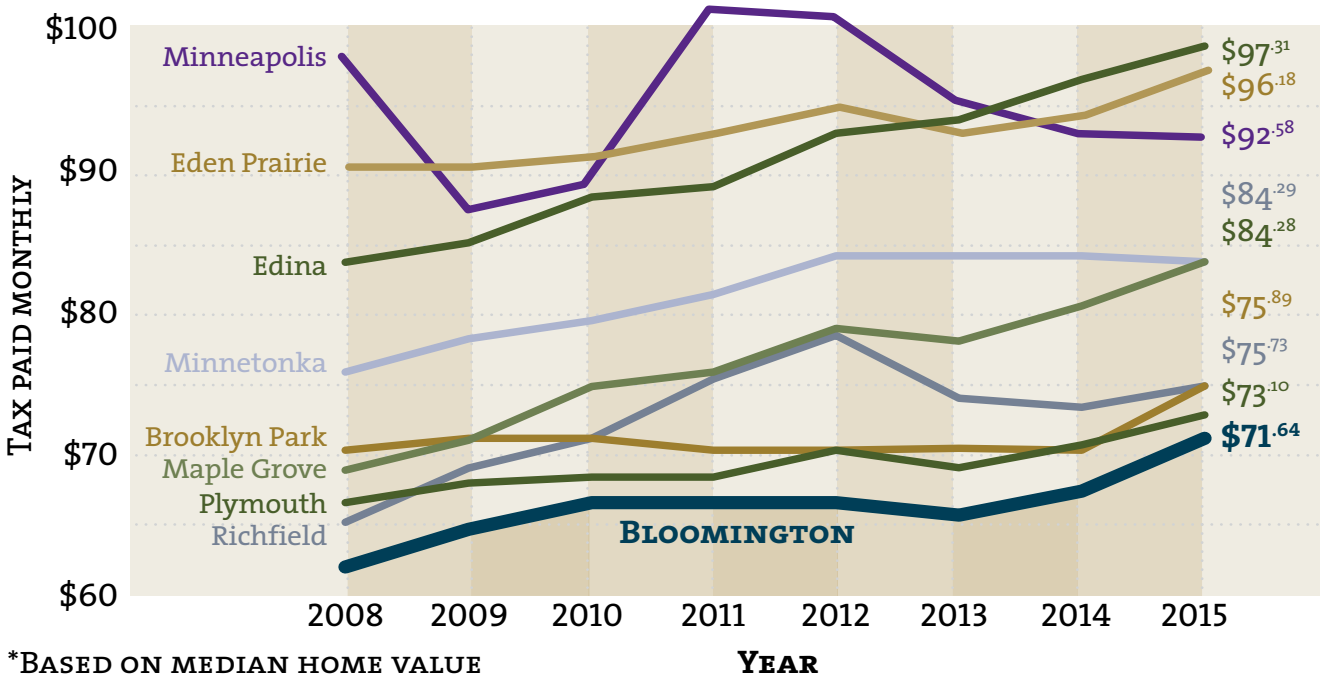
Monthly cost of utilities

Based on an average water usage of 6,800 gallons per month and sewer usage of 4,740 gallons per month, the monthly cost of utilities for a home in Bloomington is \$41.79 in 2015. Services include water, sewer, stormwater and solid waste.

Note: Utility bills are mailed bimonthly and average \$83.58 for the two-month billing cycle.

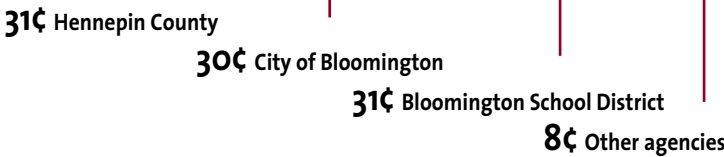
MEETING DEMANDS WITH QUALITY CITY SERVICES BLOOMINGTON RANKS WELL IN COMPARISON

The City continues to meet the needs of its residents while constantly looking for ways to improve quality and keep costs affordable. In a 2015 comparison of seven Hennepin County peer communities with more than 20,000 residents, the monthly cost of City services for a single-family home in Bloomington ranked lowest at \$71.66. The graph below illustrates the cost-effectiveness of Bloomington services in terms of what the owner of a median-value home pays in the metro area. Bloomington is very cost competitive even when compared to newer communities such as Plymouth and Maple Grove that are just starting infrastructure renewal that Bloomington began almost 20 years ago.



YOUR 2015 PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR

The single-family residential tax dollar is divided among several governmental entities. As the graphic at left shows, for every dollar of taxes paid, 30 cents are for City services. The actual amount of taxes owed is based on a property’s market value, tax law and the levy. The levy for all local governmental entities is spread across properties within each entity’s respective boundaries using tax capacity, a function of market value and property type. While the City sets a total property tax dollar amount to be levied, as all local Minnesota jurisdictions do, the portion each property pays of that amount is solely a function of the State of Minnesota property tax law based on market value and tax classification. After applying educational aids, a Bloomington homeowner with a median-valued home pays \$2,860 in property taxes. Of that, \$860, or \$71.66 per month, goes to the City for services. The remaining \$2,000 or \$166.67 a month goes to other taxing districts.



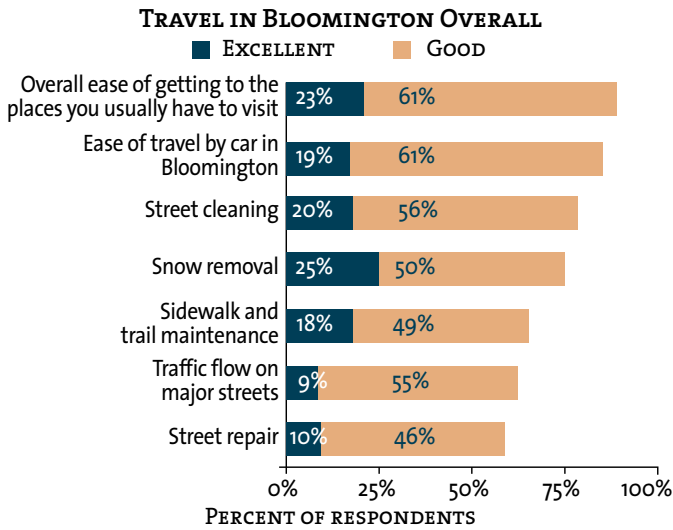
street maintenance gets high marks



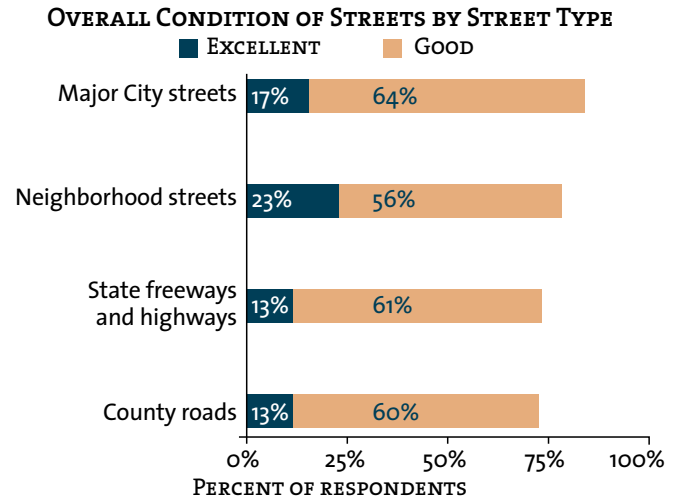
STREET REPAIR RATINGS INCREASING ACCORDING TO SURVEY

The City’s goal is to maintain and improve the quality of life in Bloomington, including maintaining and updating city streets. The City of Bloomington conducted a survey in order to gauge how residents view the quality of street repair services in Bloomington.

The 2014 Street, Road and Highway Survey was developed as a follow-up to the 2014 National Citizen Survey for use in decision-making regarding maintenance of City streets. The National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado, randomly selected 3,000 Bloomington residents to participate in a mail survey between September and November 2014. A total of 1,113 households completed the survey. Respondents were asked to rate their perception of the overall condition of streets and street maintenance services in Bloomington.



Residents feel positively about most aspects of travel in Bloomington. At least three-quarters of respondents indicated the overall ease of getting around, ease of travel by car, street cleaning and snow removal were excellent or good. About two-thirds of respondents rated sidewalk and trail maintenance and traffic flow on major streets at the same level.



The overall condition of neighborhood streets and major City-maintained streets received the highest ratings from residents, with slightly lower ratings for state freeways and county roads. About 80 percent of residents felt the pavement conditions of neighborhood and major City streets were excellent or good. County roads and state highways received

DID YOU KNOW?

Public Works’ goal is to respond to reports of potholes within 24 hours of being notified. Pothole repairs are prioritized by size, number and street traffic volume. Potholes are repaired by Street Maintenance workers in order of priority.

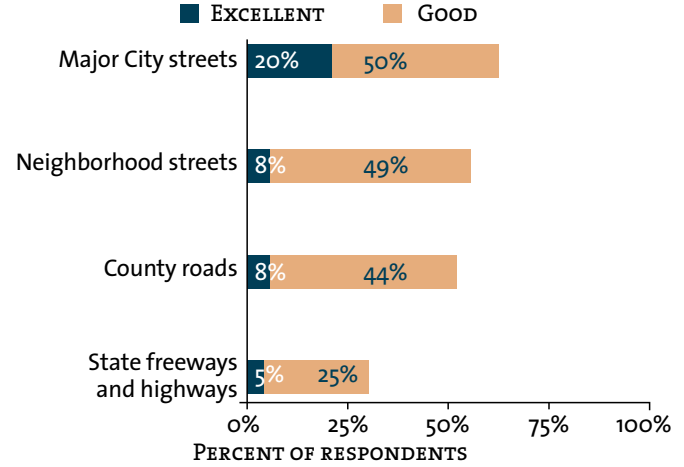
PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE DIVISION BY THE NUMBERS

The City’s Maintenance Division maintains:

- 29 MILES OF BICYCLE LANES
- 50 CITY-OWNED FACILITIES
- 78 PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS
- 253 MILES OF STORM SEWERS
- 342 MILES OF STREETS AND BIKE LANES
- 512 MILES OF CUL-DE-SACS
- 600 MILES OF CURBS AND GUTTERS
- 4,339 STREET LIGHTS



TRAFFIC VOLUME BY STREET TYPE



positive ratings from more than 70 percent of residents.

Seven in 10 residents felt that traffic volume on their streets was excellent or good compared to 3 in 10 who gave positive ratings to traffic on state freeways and highways.

The survey also found that a majority of residents were willing to pay additional property taxes to improve the condition of Bloomington streets. Sixty-four percent of respondents stated that they were willing to pay additional property taxes for this purpose. Nineteen percent were willing to pay up to \$0.99 per month and 31 percent were willing to pay between \$1 and \$2.99 per month.

For more information, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: STREET SURVEY.

A CLEAN SWEEP

Street Maintenance crews have their work down to an art form. In addition to snowplowing in the winter, Street Maintenance conducts an annual street cleaning and repair campaign every spring and summer. The campaign begins with the Pavement Management Program for the maintenance and reconstruction of Bloomington roadways. During the spring, Public Works puts the program into motion by first organizing the city into 10 zones.

According to Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Ken Frosig, the zones that are designated priorities are those closest to lakes, ponds and streams.

“Our goal is to prevent debris and runoff from infiltrating our water,” Frosig said.

Sweeper and flush trucks work together to tackle dust and debris left over from the long winter. Then an eco-friendly sweeper removes fine sand and silt using a controlled blast of air to dislodge tiny particles from the street’s surface. The end result is a clean street from curb to curb.

“Bloomington is a critical and geographically well-positioned transportation corridor. The old expression for successful business, ‘location, location, location,’ applies. Our company is fortunate to have a great location in Bloomington along I-494 and I-35W. We appreciate the cooperative relationship shared with City staff and that the Planning Commission and City Council have supported our business.”

Linda McKinty, Director of Real Estate and Development, Luther Automotive





“Ziegler CAT has deep roots in Bloomington, which has served as our headquarters since 1958. We’re excited to expand just a few blocks away from our headquarters, and we look forward to maintaining our partnership with the City. With its close proximity and accessibility for our employees and customers, and our longstanding relationship with City professionals, Bloomington continues to be a great home.”

William L. Hoeft,
President and CEO,
Ziegler CAT



projects taking shape in 2015



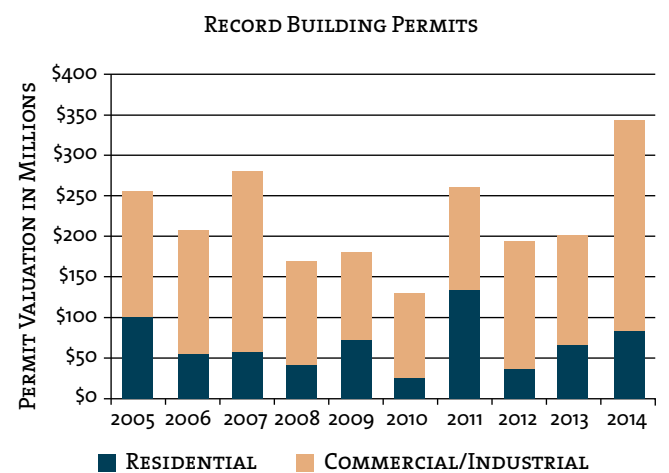
Infiniti of Bloomington auto dealership and service center along I-35W near American Boulevard is adding to the existing dealership and nearly tripling its size. The reconstruction provides enhanced sales and service areas. Anticipated completion is fall 2015.

SHAPING A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

The City’s primary goal is to build community, but in order for a community to thrive, existing assets and infrastructure must be continually updated and maintained.

In 2015, Bloomington’s total assessed value is estimated to be \$11.3 billion. This is a sign that things are bouncing back from previous years—the City’s historical high watermark was \$11.8 billion in 2008. When compared to other cities in Minnesota that are close to us in population, Bloomington’s estimated total assessed value is more than 10 percent higher than Rochester and almost twice that of Duluth.

Last year was a record year for building permits and the growth shows no signs of stopping—a sure signal that companies and residents have confidence in the future of Bloomington. The graph at right shows a comparison over the last 10 years. The orange portion of the bars are commercial/industrial, which shows how important commercial/industrial development is to Bloomington.



MORE HOUSING OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM

Bloomington has more housing than in prior years, offering current and potential residents a variety of options. The latest additions include:

- **The Bluffs at Sans Pierre**, located at Lyndale Avenue and 107th Street. This development of 17 villa homes and 42 townhouses began construction in 2006.
- **The Summit at Chelsea Ridge** at Rahr Preserve, *photo at right*, located at Boone Circle and west of Dred Scott adds 14 new single-family homes.
- **Masonic Homes** plans to replace an existing portion of their building with a new 52,000-square-foot addition. The proposed addition includes a 420-seat auditorium, multipurpose gathering hall, Masons’ museum, library and a Masonic lodge room. The new building will be attached to the existing building.
- **Luxembourg**, located at 5100 West 82nd Street. This is a three-story apartment building with an attached four-story parking ramp. There are 282 rental apartment units under construction.
- **Lennar’s IndiGO**, located at American Boulevard and 34th Avenue, is a six-story apartment with nearly 400 units. This new development will be located across the street from the American Boulevard light rail transit platform in the South Loop. Construction begins this summer.



BUSINESS IS BOOMING IN BLOOMINGTON

Business in Bloomington is booming, as evidenced by the number of companies growing their facilities and operations in our community. Bloomington is a place where jobs are plentiful and the unemployment rate is lower than the nation, state and metro area.

- **Toro Company**, a worldwide provider of innovative turf, snow and ground-engaging equipment, and irrigation and outdoor lighting solutions, constructed a 75,000-square-foot, three-story, office building with a 282-space surface parking lot. In addition, the company is currently undergoing a major remodel of space vacated by office users. Toro celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.
- **Ziegler Cat**, *photo at right*, the heavy equipment supplier and a legacy Bloomington business, located at 94th Street on the east side of I-35W, is expanding its operations across the interstate on 96th Street. The 109,000-square-foot industrial facility is a renovation of an existing industrial building and will include new office space, warehousing and distribution, and a manufacturing space for servicing and rebuilding engines and components for their equipment. Construction is underway.
- **OATI (Open Access Technology International)**, a tech company that provides software solutions and management for the energy industry, is building a five-story, 110,000-square-foot office building and data center north of I-494 at Computer Avenue. Construction began last summer and will continue through 2015.





HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO GROW

Hospitality is also expanding in Bloomington with four new hotels under construction in 2015. The hotels are part of the growing lodging industry in Bloomington. The steady growth of hotel rooms, many located in the South Loop District, strengthens Bloomington’s status as a premier destination.

- **TownePlace Suites**, *pictured at right*, will be located on the corner of 24th Avenue and Lindau Lane. This 118-room hotel at Bloomington Central Station will open this summer. This is the first “new” construction on the extension of Lindau Lane and Lindau Link.
- **The Hyatt Regency Hotel**, *pictured above right*, a 302-room, full-service hotel, is under construction at Bloomington Central Station. It is scheduled to open spring 2016.
- **AC Hotels by Marriott** has proposed a hotel on the corner of 24th Avenue and Lindau Lane. The plan consists of a five-story, 148-room hotel with a full-service, 50-seat restaurant that includes a patio adjacent to a public plaza. The project will also include a 300-space parking structure. Future phases of the site will include a restaurant, coffee shop and retail building.
- **JW Marriott Hotel** is under construction at Mall of America. The 342-room hotel is part of a larger development that includes retail and office. The project will be completed in phases in 2015.
- **Home2Suites by Hilton**, *pictured at top*, a 107-room extended stay hotel (the first in Minnesota), is being constructed in the Penn-American District. It is scheduled to open in late 2015.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

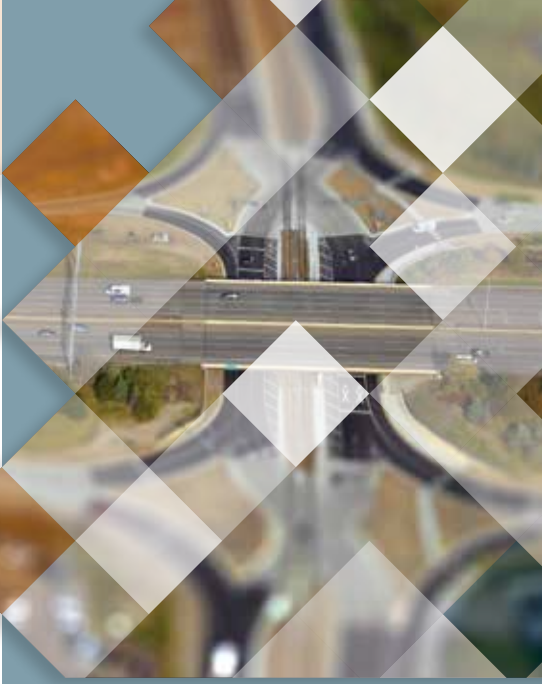
Several trail improvements are slated to begin this summer, including the long-awaited rehabilitation of the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge over Long Meadow Lake. This two-year project will reopen the historic bridge, providing access to trails along the Minnesota River and a river crossing connection.

Many crosswalk enhancements are in the works to make pedestrian crossings safer near American Boulevard, Bush Lake Beach, Kennedy High School, Valley View Middle School and Oxboro Library.

The City is also moving ahead with plans to replace aging playground equipment at DuPont Playlot, 8807 Dupont Avenue South, and Hampshire Hills Park, 10601 Louisiana Avenue South. Other amenities including benches and bike racks should be completed by the fall.

For more information, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PARK IMPROVEMENTS.



PARKS AND RECREATION

BY THE NUMBERS

Enjoying the City’s many parks, trails, playgrounds and open spaces is a big part of life in Bloomington. Here’s a look at some of our numbers.

1,678	ACRES OF PARKS, PLAYFIELDS AND CONSERVATION AREAS
97	PARKS
80	BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELDS
53	TENNIS COURTS
35	OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS
31	SOCCER FIELDS
15	PICNIC SHELTERS
7	FOOTBALL FIELDS

“United Properties is proud to be part of Bloomington’s growth. Besides being our corporate home, Bloomington offers a diverse housing stock, quality office opportunities and with Mall of America a retail offering second to none. The foresight of Bloomington’s leadership continues to pay big dividends.”

Keith Ulstad, Senior Vice President
Retail Investment & Development,
United Properties



The General Fund

The General Fund, which accounts for a majority of City services, is Bloomington’s primary operating fund. It uses current revenues to fulfill current expense obligations. This section contains specific information about each department within the General Fund. Net gains in one year help reduce future property tax increases.

	2013 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	2014 BUDGET	2014 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	2015 BUDGET	ESTIMATED NET PROPERTY TAX*
POLICE	\$21,254,658	\$22,503,349	\$22,279,707	\$22,920,461	\$24.67
	The Police Department works with the community to make Bloomington a safe place to live and partners with residents and businesses to address their diverse needs.				
PUBLIC WORKS	9,820,699	10,074,246	9,925,859	10,924,205	15.38**
	Public Works provides safe and efficient transportation routes throughout Bloomington, provides snowplowing services, maintains the City’s streets, parks, vehicles and public facilities, and reviews the impact construction and development projects will have on local and regional infrastructure.				
COMMUNITY SERVICES	12,035,176	12,331,880	12,086,024	12,892,096	14.36†
	Community Services offers human services programs, manages parks and recreational activities, produces communication materials and provides public health services.				
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	6,477,924	6,985,873	6,693,561	6,712,942	4.09
	Community Development partners with the community to enhance Bloomington through planning, economic development and redevelopment activities. The department promotes health and safety by obtaining compliance with state and City codes.				
FIRE	3,320,968	3,129,258	3,167,873	4,113,931	4.98
	The Fire Department protects the community by performing rescues, responding to fires, emergencies and hazardous materials incidents, and conducting Fire Code inspections and fire cause investigations.				
TECHNICAL SERVICES	2,623,184	2,694,522	2,638,080	2,786,071	***
	Technical Services furnishes licensing, assessment, elections, records management and cemetery services to Bloomington’s residents as well as internal technology support to City departments.				
LEGAL	1,203,981	1,285,931	1,308,133	1,319,783	***
	Legal prosecutes misdemeanors and advises the City Manager, City Council, City departments, and advisory boards and commissions.				
FINANCE	1,007,740	1,087,212	1,054,512	1,057,734	***
	Finance provides financial management and internal support services to other departments.				
HUMAN RESOURCES	578,490	670,161	575,894	671,765	***
	Human Resources recruits and assists in hiring staff, oversees employee benefit programs and conducts employee relations activities on behalf of the City.				
COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS, CITY MANAGER	786,972	918,912	845,331	935,481	***
	Legislative power is vested in an elected, part-time city council consisting of a mayor and six councilmembers, which appoints citizens to advisory commissions. A city manager administers City business, appoints all other employees and performs duties as directed by the council.				
TOTAL	59,109,742	61,681,344	60,578,004	64,334,469	

* Net property tax is the portion of the levy allocated to these services per month for the median-valued home. For the net property tax calculation, departments with programs that generate fee revenue have that revenue applied to their budget before property tax. Out of the \$71.64 the owner of a median-valued home pays for City services, \$59.66 goes to the General Fund.

** Includes \$958,134 in a separate levy for the Pavement Management Program.

*** These administrative services are allocated to other General Fund budgets and programs.

† Recreational facilities funding is \$2.26 of this total.

2015 OPERATING REVENUE SOURCES

The City’s major funds fall into the categories of General, Enterprise, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Internal Service and Special Revenue. Shown on the next three pages, these funds demonstrate how quality City services provide a good value for your tax dollar. Bloomington’s competitive property tax cost is maintained by continuing to encourage growth of the City’s diverse tax base and looking at new ways to bolster productivity.

Property taxes	\$47,672,122
Fees/charges	28,776,300
Program income	7,831,609
Lodging/admissions	7,936,905
Transfers/other	5,814,817
Intergovernmental	3,773,869
Licenses/permits	5,125,800
Special assessments	3,446,697
Fines/forfeitures	1,371,250
Franchise fee	1,416,000
Total revenues	\$113,165,369

2015 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

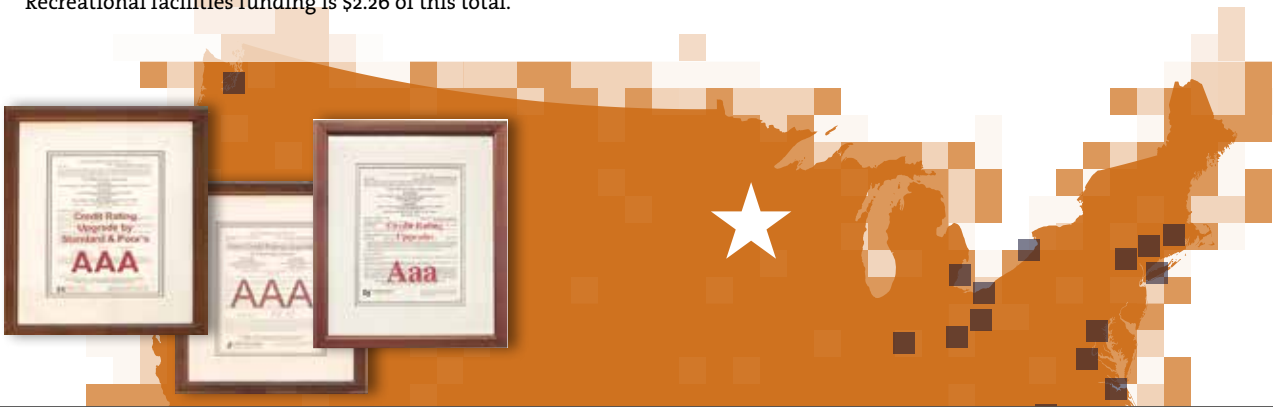
The City’s budgeted expenditures for 2015 total \$116,798,680.*

General Fund	\$63,990,682
Enterprise Funds	38,635,819
Special Revenue Funds	6,508,860
Debt Service Funds	7,663,319
Total expenditures	\$116,798,680

* The \$2,663,311 difference between 2015 revenues and expenditures is the planned expenditure(s) of reserves for Capital Projects, see page CR 8.

“Mall of America and the City of Bloomington have worked closely together for more than 23 years to develop new offerings for both residents and visitors. The Mall is and has always been dedicated to bringing new growth to this market. Our current expansion includes additional retail offerings, corporate spaces and tourism projects to enhance the Bloomington area.”

Rich Hoge,
Vice President of
Operations, Mall
of America



A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT—THREE TRIPLE-A RATINGS

Bloomington ranks with an elite few cities nationwide in holding three triple-A bond ratings. The City maintains its Aaa status from Moody’s, AAA from Standard & Poor’s and AAA from Fitch Ratings, the highest bond ratings awarded by these agencies.

Bloomington is one of only 27 cities out of more than 19,000 municipal governments in the U.S. that have achieved three triple-A ratings. Bloomington is currently the only Minnesota city to hold all three highest ratings.

According to the agencies, our triple-A status reflects the City’s conservative fiscal management, diverse economic base, central location, low unemployment rate that falls below state and national averages, and continued success in Mall of America tax increment district.

The City’s excellent bond ratings signal current and potential investors that our financial future is strong and ensure interest costs will remain low. They also signal to businesses and individuals that Bloomington is a financially healthy community.

reaching our budget goals

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

These funds consist of utilities, recreational facilities, contractual police services and motor vehicle licensing primarily supported by user fees.

		2013 OPERATING EXPENSES	2014 BUDGET	2014 OPERATING EXPENSES	2015 BUDGET	AVERAGE FEES PER MONTH
COMMUNITY SERVICES	RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	\$5,400,202	\$5,286,960	\$5,400,202	\$5,615,511	\$2.26*
PUBLIC SAFETY	CONTRACTUAL POLICE	620,702	600,000	607,999	600,000	--
PUBLIC WORKS	SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	1,227,066	1,678,273	1,599,600	1,958,891	2.84**
	STORMWATER UTILITY	3,219,208	6,089,003	6,623,690	6,449,545	5.95
	WATER/ WASTEWATER UTILITY	22,737,924	24,320,350	25,213,092	23,261,146	34.68***
TECHNICAL SERVICES	MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE	623,713	631,535	632,322	720,726	--

* Included in the \$14.36 that the property owner of a median-value home pays in property taxes for Community Services per month.
** Not including a \$0.61 recycling credit residents receive per month from a county grant.
*** Rates are based on Bloomington’s average winter use of 6,800 gallons per month for water and 4,740 gallons per month for sewer.

INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS

These funds finance interdepartmental goods and services on a cost-reimbursement basis from a variety of end-user funds. Internal Service Funds are supported by interdepartmental user fees already included as expenses to other funds in this report.

	2013 OPERATING EXPENSES	2014 BUDGET	2014 OPERATING EXPENSES	2015 BUDGET
BENEFIT ACCRUAL	\$1,959,341	\$1,398,128	\$1,633,391	\$1,793,631
EQUIPMENT FUND	6,119,165	7,003,551	8,376,380	8,560,551
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT	9,567,643	11,096,953	11,175,458	10,819,564
INFORMATION SYSTEMS	4,050,290	6,650,053	5,256,334	4,850,471
INSURED BENEFITS	8,207,552	8,658,100	8,581,754	9,010,958
PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO	448,084	283,184	439,409	686,901
SELF-INSURANCE	2,076,965	1,650,469	1,778,253	2,006,980
SUPPORT SERVICES	495,524	499,152	490,979	534,658

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

These funds account for revenues used for specific purposes including housing and community development, communications, public health initiatives and law enforcement activities.

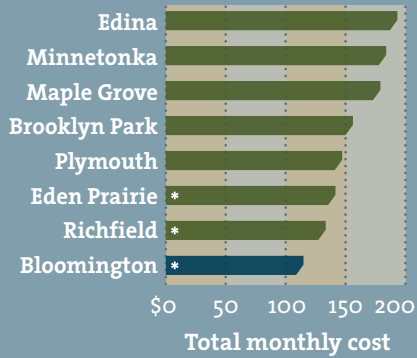
		2013 OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2014 BUDGET	2014 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2015 BUDGET	FUNDING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	SOUTH LOOP REVOLVING FUND	\$7,697	0	0	0	Environmental review fees
COMMUNITY SERVICES	COMMUNICATIONS	1,371,583	1,501,049	1,509,860	1,542,338	Franchise fee/ other fund charges
	PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIAL REVENUE	1,661,735	1,538,582	1,282,394	1,351,560	State grants
	PARK GRANTS	11,254	113,000	11,226	64,000	State and federal grants
PUBLIC SAFETY	PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIAL REVENUE	3,362,314	3,555,264	3,342,656	2,329,854	Forfeited assets and grants
	FIRE GRANTS	159,305	44,770	212,233	395,000	and one-time reimbursement*/ property taxes**
CITY CLERK	CEMETERY TRUST	2,547	535,536	449,766	338,617	Lot sales
PUBLIC WORKS	ENERGY EFFICIENCY BLOCK GRANT	22,534	0	0	0	State and federal grants

* Used for specific police capital and operating expenses.
** If the City is required to fund Bloomington’s Fire Pension Fund, the tax levy will generally be the funding source.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX, WATER AND SEWER RATES

In 2014, the monthly costs to residents in eight cities for single-family property taxes plus water, sewer and water-softening services ranged from \$195 in Edina (including in-home, water-softening costs) to \$121.73 in Bloomington for City-softened water.

2014 MONTHLY COSTS FOR PROPERTY TAXES, WATER, SEWER AND WATER-SOFTENING SERVICES



Costs are based on a single-family residence. Water and sewer rates are based on 7,500 gallons (average based on the 2014 Residential Water and Sewer Rate survey).
* Cities that soften water before distribution.

“As our company grew in the 1950s, so did our need for larger facilities. In 1962, after an extensive search, we opened our 33-acre Bloomington campus, choosing this diverse and thriving community to serve as our global headquarters. Bloomington continues to offer high quality people, a long history of success, significant opportunities for future growth and a shared commitment to our local community.”
William Cook, President and CEO, Donaldson Companies





improving and maintaining our assets

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The City Council presents this corporate report of financial and related information to show how Bloomington’s City government performs. This report does not include Housing and Redevelopment Authority or Port Authority budgets.

Mayor

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Councilmembers

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Tim Busse, 952-457-7506 (h)
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Dwayne Lowman, 952-479-0226 (h)
Jon Oleson, 651-208-6586 (c)

City Manager

Jamie Verbrugge, 952-563-8780
citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The City of Bloomington reports financial year-end results in the approximately 200-page *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* (CAFR). This *Corporate Report to the Community* summarizes significant data from the 2014 CAFR and the 2015 Annual Budget, and is consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The report reflects the net tax cost by service expenditure developed by crediting related revenues against appropriate expenditures and allocating local taxes against the remaining balance.

The *Corporate Report to the Community* is unaudited. This popular report format has been used and improved for the past 14 years and is also available on our website. Audited numbers will appear on our website in June.

Minnesota state law requires that “A city or county with a population of more than 15,000 must annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees.” For the City of Bloomington, names, titles and salaries are: Jamie Verbrugge, City Manager – \$165,000; Karl Keel, Public Works Director – \$160,442; and Larry Lee, Director of Community Development – \$154,439.



CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital Project funds purchase and improve major assets such as land, structures, equipment and streets. Capital project fund expenditures are incorporated into the budget process and developed based on City Council appropriation.

UTILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE

- Water distribution and sewer collection system improvements: \$750,000.
- Well and well house maintenance projects: \$45,000.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Replace playground equipment at Dupont Playlot and Hampshire Hills Park to meet current safety and accessibility



standards: \$220,000. This includes bicycle racks, picnic tables and benches. An additional \$150,000 is proposed to reconstruct the tennis courts at Valley View Playfield.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

- The Long Meadow Bridge rehabilitation: \$22 million. This project provides a nonmotorized trail connection between Hennepin and Dakota Counties regional trail systems. A total of one million dollars will be funded by the City. Tax increment financing and grants will provide the bulk of the funding. Additional maintenance will be \$75,000 per year.
- Wayfinding traffic management improvements on City streets in the South Loop District: \$1.2 million. This is funded primarily through a federal transportation grant.

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Pavement Management Program is a funding and implementation plan for repair, maintenance and reconstruction of Bloomington roadways. After needs are identified, funding is provided through state aids, assessments and an annual levy. This program strategically plans for street repair and replacement, and maximizes process efficiency by identifying the optimum time to replace or repair streets. In 2015, approximately \$10 million will be invested in street reconstruction, which will be funded through debt service.

DEBT SERVICE

Many community needs must be cost-effectively met by the City of Bloomington, including street and infrastructure work, construction projects and equipment purchases. The ability to issue future debt at lower interest rates will provide for our community’s upkeep and renewal without substantially increasing property taxes for debt service.

2013 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	2014 BUDGET	2014 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	2015 BUDGET	AVERAGE NET PROPERTY TAX PER MONTH
\$11,058,597	\$20,150,327	\$20,103,025	\$10,128,335	\$7.56

OUTSTANDING DEBT

The City’s total outstanding debt on December 31, 2014, was \$62,415,000. The total legal debt limit for Bloomington is \$313 million. The City’s net debt per capita is \$523. See right. Refunding bonds of \$1,225,000, which were paid on February 1, 2015, are included in the amounts listed at right. More than 50 percent of Bloomington’s debt will be paid off in 10 years—a sign of strong financial management.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BONDS	
General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds	\$ 4,280,000
G.O. Improvement Bonds	50,930,000
G.O. Tax Increment Bonds	2,970,000
Capital Improvement Plan Bonds	4,235,000
SUBTOTAL	\$ 62,415,000
Less: Funds on hand	(17,073,317)
TOTAL NET DEBT	\$ 45,341,683
NET DEBT per capita	\$ 525

WATER QUALITY REPORT

FOR BLOOMINGTON, MN • 2014 TEST RESULTS



JUNE 2015

INSIDE

- WQR 2 Where does your tap water come from?
- WQR 3 FAQ.
- WQR 4 2014 Water quality results.

MAKING SAFE DRINKING WATER

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON works hard to provide you with high-quality, safe, reliable drinking water that meets every federal and state water quality requirement. This report contains information about the sources, treatment process and history of our water system. The results of water quality monitoring on Bloomington's water sources from January 1 to December 31, 2014, conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health, the city of Minneapolis and Bloomington's laboratories are on page WQR4.

The goal of this report is to advance residents' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

GET INVOLVED

Public Works welcomes input on water quality issues. Contact the Water Quality Supervisor at 952-563-4905.

If you have questions about your water or need assistance, give us a call or visit the City's website at BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV.

- Water Plant (24 hours a day) 952-563-4905
- TTY (8 a.m. –4:30 p.m., M–F) 952-563-8740

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Si necesita una traducción del mismo, sírvase llamar al 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

Bản báo cáo này có các thông tin rất quan trọng. Nếu quý vị cần bản dịch tiếng Việt, xin gọi số 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

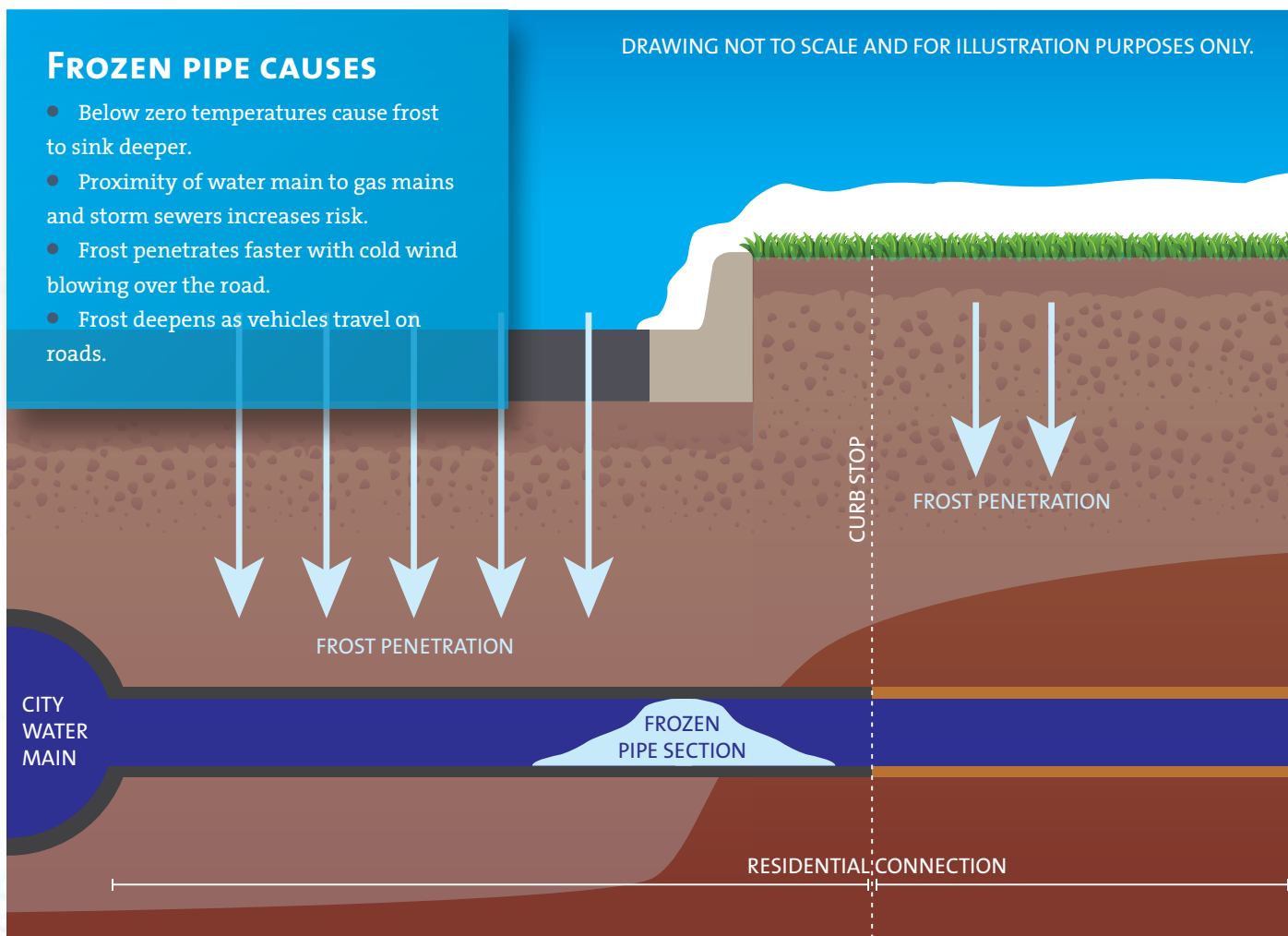
Warbixintaan waxaa ku jira macluumaad aad muhiim u ah. Haddii aad u baahan tahay in lagu turjumo, fadlan la xiriiir 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

RECORD-BREAKING WINTER FOR FROZEN PIPES

FROZEN PIPE CAUSES

- Below zero temperatures cause frost to sink deeper.
- Proximity of water main to gas mains and storm sewers increases risk.
- Frost penetrates faster with cold wind blowing over the road.
- Frost deepens as vehicles travel on roads.

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE AND FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY.



The winter of 2013–2014 was record-breaking—not for snow accumulation, but for freezing cold temperatures that caused service pipes throughout the state to freeze. In Bloomington, the City's Utilities Division restored a record 188 frozen pipes to service, surpassing the previous record of 163 set in 1977.

The “no water” calls and requests for service began in late December and continued well into April. Bloomington's water utility operators continued a tradition of excellent customer service by working up to 14-hour days and weekends through February and March to restore service to customers.

Thawing and restoring water service to single-family residences was and has always been provided free of charge. Customers were not charged for water left running to prevent a second freeze-up. This was not the case in surrounding metropolitan communities and others statewide. Homeowners in other communities are required to pay large fees for thawing services, with no guarantee of success.

According to the City's records, 67 percent of residential water pipes that froze in 2014 had no history of freezing and 90 percent of those frozen pipes had the water main on the far side of the street. Many service pipes under the pavement were exposed to frost penetration of up to eight feet, causing them to freeze and causing problems for customers. Utilities workers advised homeowners whose pipes had frozen to keep their water turned on to prevent re-freezing.

Fixing frozen pipes

When Public Works receives a call that a service pipe is frozen, the first step is to disconnect cables from the main electrical panel inside the property to the water service pipe. Workers then check the water meter for signs of freeze damage. A hose is connected to the incoming service pipe and run to a floor drain or laundry tub to thoroughly flush the line when the water starts flowing.

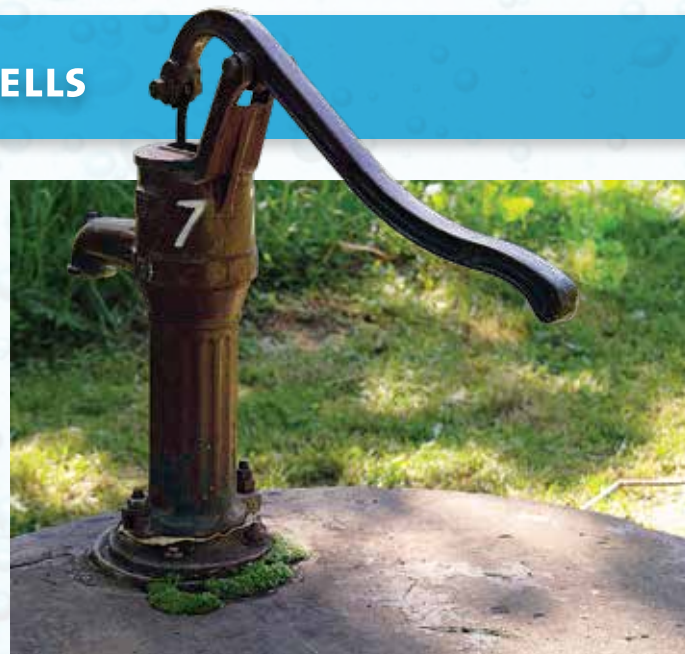
A portable welder connected to the curb stop valve or fire hydrant emits a low-voltage electrical current that heats the pipe and thaws the ice. Most frozen pipes thaw and begin flowing with water within 15 minutes, and are then flushed for an additional three to five minutes to ensure the pipe is completely clear of ice.

CARING FOR BLOOMINGTON'S WELLS

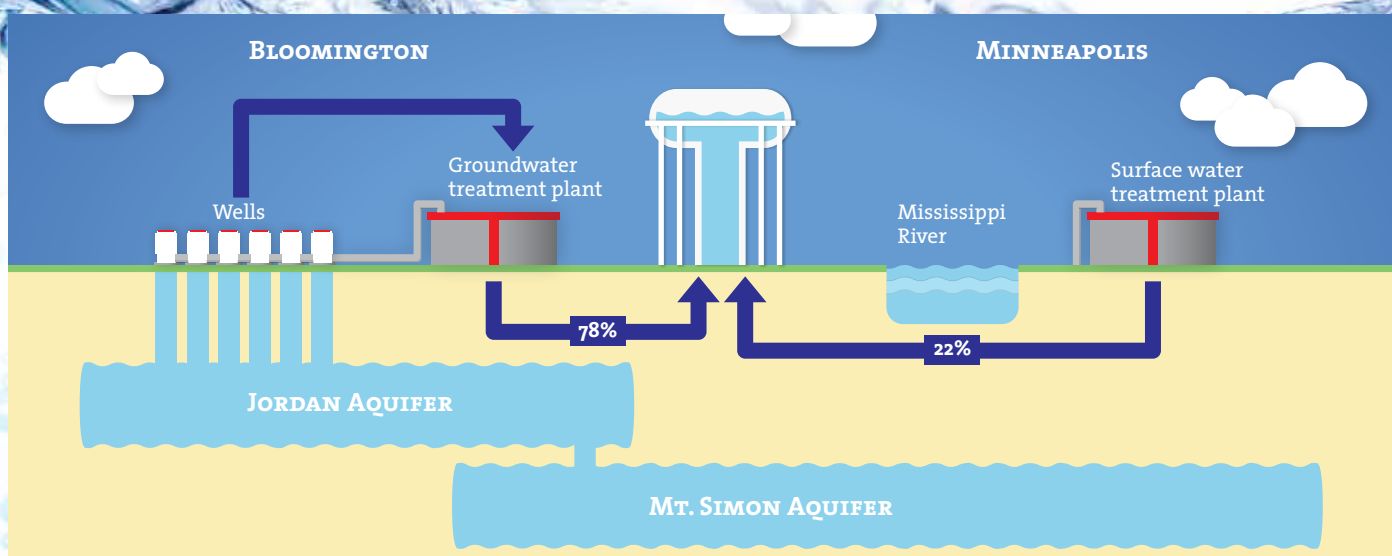
Do you own a well? The Minnesota Department of Health developed a handbook of information on proper well construction, operation and maintenance. The “Well Owner's Handbook” is a consumer's guide to water wells in Minnesota and is available for reference at the Utilities Division of Public Works, 1700 West 98th Street, and on the City's website.

The MDH's well management program protects both public health and groundwater by ensuring the proper construction of new wells. The City works with the Department of Health by providing a well inspection program including the permitting of well abandonment, construction and maintenance.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WELL WATER.



THE SOURCE OF BLOOMINGTON'S TAP WATER



DID YOU KNOW?

The Sam H. Hobbs Water Treatment Plant was built in 1973 and expanded in 2002. The water plant can produce up to 14 million gallons of treated, softened, drinkable water per day. The water plant operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Utility operators stationed at the water plant also serve as the 24-hour contact people for water emergencies.



BLOOMINGTON WELLS FULFILLED 78 PERCENT OF WATER NEEDS IN 2014

The City's water plant draws groundwater from six deep wells. The wells extend downward between 376 and 963 feet into the Jordan, Prairie du Chien-Jordan, Franconia-Mount Simon and Jordan-St. Lawrence Aquifers, porous underground rock formations that hold vast amounts of water.

In 2014, the City drew 3 billion gallons of water, 78 percent of Bloomington's needs, from these deep groundwater wells. The City continues to monitor water usage and takes appropriate actions to encourage wise water use. In addition, the City is conducting a wellhead protection study to ensure Bloomington well water continues to be safe.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER SUPPLIED 22 PERCENT OF WATER NEEDS IN 2014

To meet demand that exceeds production capabilities during peak periods, Bloomington purchases treated water from the city of Minneapolis. Treated water from our plant is blended with similarly treated water from Minneapolis and sent throughout Bloomington's distribution system. All of Bloomington's consumers receive a blend of water from these two sources.

Minneapolis' surface water treatment plant takes raw water from the Mississippi River. In 2014, Bloomington purchased 845 million gallons of water from Minneapolis to supply 22 percent of Bloomington's water needs.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WATER TREATMENT.

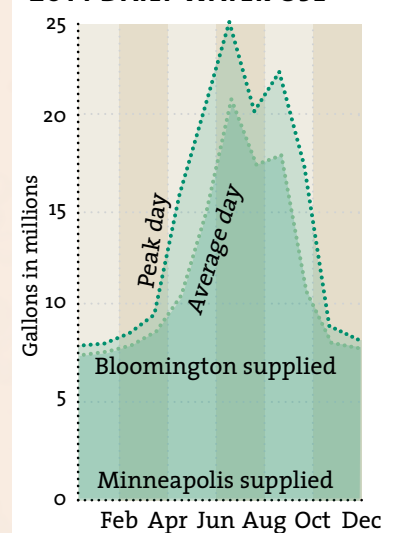
HOW MUCH IS USED?

In 2014, residents and businesses in Bloomington used 3.9 billion gallons of water, 474 million fewer than 2013. Average usage was 10.7 million gallons of water per day last year.

The chart below shows the peak day and average day of water use for each month during 2014, as well as the average amount of water treated at the City's plant and purchased from Minneapolis. To get a more accurate picture of the actual water consumed, peak day data was adjusted to account for fluctuations in the City's reservoir levels.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WATER USAGE.

2014 DAILY WATER USE



WATER TREATMENT PROCESS

1 The softening process begins when lime, in the form of slakened quicklime, is mixed with raw water in one of the City's two contact solids basins. Each basin holds half a million gallons of water.

2 The lime-and-water mixture causes a chemical reaction that results in calcium and magnesium (the main components of hardness) forming insoluble particles called flocs. As these floc particles grow in size, they settle to the bottom of the contact solids basins. The solids are removed, dewatered and used as a USDA-approved source of lime by Minnesota farmers to stabilize the pH in farm fields.

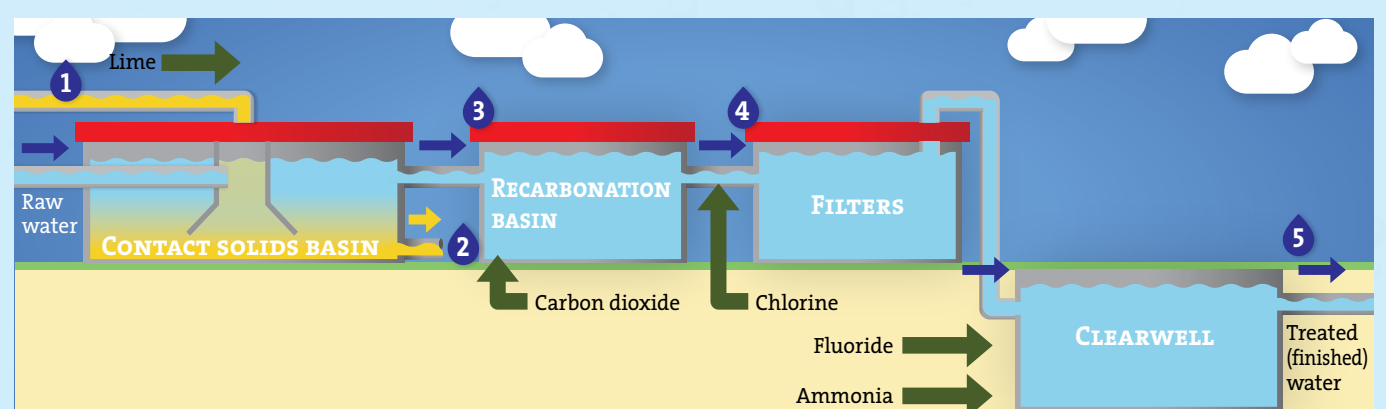
3 The water enters a recarbonation basin where it is adjusted to the proper

pH by adding carbon dioxide. A precise amount of chlorine is added to discourage bacterial growth as the water travels through the City's distribution system.

4 The water is filtered to remove any remaining particles. Then it enters an underground reservoir called a clearwell where small quantities of fluoride are added. Because fluoride promotes strong teeth and bones, fluoridation is mandated by state law at a dosage of 0.9–1.5 parts per million. See page WQR4.

5 The finished water from the City's treatment plant is pumped into the distribution system, where it is mixed with treated water purchased from the city of Minneapolis.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WATER TREATMENT.



WATER TESTING

The Tri-City/William Lloyd Analytical Laboratory is certified by the Minnesota Department of Health to treat and test water. In 2014, the lab performed more than 12,000 tests on Bloomington's water and analyzed approximately 22,000 samples. The lab also analyzed 172 state-mandated bacteria tests for new water main construction projects and conducted 463 water quality tests on Bloomington's surface water bodies.



St. Cloud Technical College

A CAREER IN THE WATER INDUSTRY IS WAITING FOR YOU!

St. Cloud Technical College's Water Environment Technologies program provides you with the skills you need to land a great job in this rapidly growing industry.

The program has many benefits:

- Hands-on learning.
- Twelve-month program.
- Metro and St. Cloud locations.
- Ninety-five percent placement rates.

For more information on this career program, call St. Cloud Technical and Community College at 320-308-5952 or email instructor Bill Spain at bspain@sctcc.edu.



SHOULD I GET A WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM?

Because Bloomington's water surpasses all federal and state standards, home filtration systems are not necessary. However, if you choose to purchase a filtration system for aesthetic or medical reasons, keep the following in mind:

- Find out if the filter you are considering is capable of removing substances that concern you.
- Look for filters that have been certified by NSF International (an independent testing group) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Follow the manufacturer's maintenance instructions carefully for usage and filter replacement frequency guidelines.



WATER SOFTENING

The City's lime-softening process removes most of the hardness in Bloomington's water, reducing it from 19 grains per gallon to about 5.2 grains per gallon finished water. (Zero grains water is ultra soft, 19 grains is considered raw.) The water is also treated to be noncorrosive. This helps prevent unsafe levels of lead and copper from leaching into the water from home plumbing. Home softening systems can further reduce water hardness, usually by adding a small amount of sodium.

Bloomington is one of 24 Minnesota municipal utilities that softens water, which means homeowners do not need to supplement with a private water-softening system.

It is estimated that the cost of home water softening ranges between \$4.42 and \$4.82 per 1,000 gallons of water, compared to \$2.64 per 1,000 gallons for City-treated water.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BLOOMINGTON'S WATER

WHY IS THE WATER FROM MY FAUCET CLOUDY?

Occasionally, the City receives calls about water that appears cloudy or milky. Usually indicating the presence of either oxygen or calcium, cloudy water is perfectly safe to drink.

Oxygen in water: Sometimes water fresh from the tap appears cloudy. Within a minute or two, the cloudiness rises toward the top of a glass and before long the whole glass is crystal clear. This is caused by excess oxygen escaping from the water.

Changes in temperature and pressure can cause the oxygen dissolved in water to reach a supersaturated state where more oxygen is in the water than it can hold. When the water passes through a faucet, the disturbance is enough to release the excess oxygen from the water, forming microscopic bubbles. The bubbles are so tiny that it takes them a long time to rise through the water. No harm will come from using oxygenated water, and you need not take any corrective action if you experience it.

Calcium in water: The chemistry of water is surprisingly complex, and many factors influence how it behaves. The City treats Bloomington's water so that it is slightly prone to deposit a trace of calcium sediment as it travels through our distribution system. This reduces the likelihood that it might corrode water mains or leach lead or copper from customers' plumbing and fixtures. *See right.* Usually, this calcium sediment remains at the bottom of the water mains, unnoticed by water users.

However, the calcium can be stirred up when a large volume of water is



drawn through a water main in a short time. Events that can increase water velocity include firefighting, water main breaks, hydrant maintenance and filling water or street-cleaning trucks' tanks at a hydrant. If you happen to turn on your cold water right after such an event, you may draw some of the stirred-up water into your pipes.

When calcium causes cloudiness, it is usually noticed in cold water. Let a glassful of the cloudy water sit for about 30 minutes and any calcium, appearing as a white or grayish substance, will settle to the bottom of the glass. Though it may be visually unappealing, such water is perfectly safe to drink or use for cooking.

To clean calcium sediment from your system, we recommend that you wait an hour or two to allow the water in the main to settle. Then, open a large faucet, such as a bathtub faucet, and let the cold water run for about 20 minutes. This will draw clean water through your system and should remove any remaining calcium from your pipes.

If you have any concerns or if your water remains cloudy after taking these steps, call 952-563-4905.



LEAD IN WATER

Lead in drinking water is primarily from the components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the materials used in home plumbing.

Minimizing exposure to lead

Lead pipes, solder, brass faucets and other plumbing in your home pose the greatest threat of adding dangerous levels of lead to your water. A few simple practices can minimize your exposure to lead from your home.

First, always use cold water for your cooking and drinking. If your plumbing contains lead, hot water will draw more lead out of it. Second, allow your cold water to run for 30 seconds to two minutes. This flushes out any water that may have been in your pipes long enough to pick up higher concentrations of lead.

The presence of lead ranks among the most common health concerns people have about drinking water. Recent studies suggest that levels of lead once thought to be safe can pose risks, especially to unborn babies and children.

If present, infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Fortunately, over years of regular and rigorous monitoring, Bloomington's water has never been found to be a significant source of lead.

For more information, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. If you are concerned about your home's lead levels, our laboratory can test your water for a fee.



appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791.

FOR PEOPLE WITH COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEMS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk of infections.

These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water. Guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control on

Water makes up about 60 percent of your body weight. Every system in your body depends on water. Water carries nutrients to your cells and provides a moist environment for ear, nose and throat tissues.

WWW.MAYOCLINIC.ORG.



WATER PURITY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Drinking water sources in the United States, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, sometimes, radioactive material. Water also picks up substances resulting from animal or human activity.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulates contaminants in bottled water to provide the same public health protection.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain reasonably small amounts of some contaminants. Their presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE UNTREATED WATER

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can occur naturally or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants can occur naturally or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

2014 WATER QUALITY RESULTS

The Minnesota Department of Health and City staff regularly test samples of Bloomington’s water for many contaminants. Some substances were detected in trace amounts in the drinking water. Only those substances that were detected appear on the table. Many results are not listed because the substances were not found at any time by tests designed to detect them. Some substances are tested less than once per year. In such cases, the most recent results and the test dates are reported.

Some contaminants do not have an established Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). These “unregulated contaminants” are assessed using federal standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take corrective actions. The table’s upper portion summarizes test results performed on Bloomington water. The lower portion

shows results for Minneapolis water because we blend Minneapolis-treated surface water with the Bloomington Water Plant’s treated groundwater. The Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable Bloomington’s source water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-888-345-0823 during normal business hours, or view the assessment online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Detected substance	Amount detected	Maximum (MCL)	Target (MCLG)	Typical source of substance	Type	Meets standards?
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON						
Chlorine (ppm)	Avg. = 2.08 (1.5 to 2.3)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	Water additive used to control microbes	R	Yes
Copper (ppm) (8/3/2011)	90% = 0.03 (0 of 30 sites over AL)	AL = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Fluoride (ppm)	Avg. = 1.03 (0.93 to 1.1)	4	4	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	R	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Avg. = 21.83 (4.3 to 35.5)	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection	R	Yes
Lead (ppb) (8/3/2011)	90% = 3.1 (0 of 30 sites over AL)	AL = 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits See page WQR 3.	R	Yes
Sodium (ppm) (07/10/2012)	5.7	U	U	Erosion of natural deposits	U	NA
Sulfate (ppm) (07/10/2012)	14.6	U	U	Erosion of natural deposits	U	NA
Total Coliform Bacteria	Avg. = 1% **	>5% present	0 present	Naturally present in the environment	R	Yes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Avg. = 18.38 (2.8 to 32)	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection	R	Yes

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS						
Chlorine (ppm)	Avg. = 3.4 (0.5 to 3.9)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	Water additive used to control microbes	R	Yes
Copper (ppm) (7/26/2012)	90% = 0.07 (0 of 50 sites over AL)	AL = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Fluoride (ppm)	Avg. = 0.97 (0.9 to 0.97)	4	4	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	R	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Avg. = 24.85 (1.3 to 52)	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection	R	Yes
Lead (ppb) (7/26/2012)	90% = 3.2 (1 of 50 sites over AL)	AL = 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	R	Yes
Nitrate (as nitrogen) (ppm)	.19	10.4	10.4	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from sewage; erosion of natural deposits	U	NA
Sodium (ppm)	12.6	U	U	Erosion of natural deposits	U	NA
Sulfate (ppm)	28.4	U	U	Erosion of natural deposits	U	NA
Total Coliform Bacteria	Avg. = 1% **	>5% present	0 present	Naturally present in the environment	R	Yes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Avg. 26.03 (7.9 to 61.2)	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection	R	Yes
Turbidity (NTU)	0.28	TT	NA	Soil runoff	R	Yes

Detected substance	Unit	Removal achieved	Removal required	Typical source of substance	Quarters out of compliance
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS					
Total organic carbon	% Removed	46.4 to 60.2%	25 to 30%	Naturally present in the environment	0
KEY					

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. Below this level there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

U Unregulated, but monitoring is required by the State of Minnesota. No limits have been set for this compound.

R Regulated.

NA Not Applicable.

AL Action Level. An amount that, if exceeded, triggers a specific response that a water system must follow.

TT Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant.

ppb Parts Per Billion. Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every billion units of water.

ppm Parts Per Million. Units of a substance, in pure form, found in every

million units of water.

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. A measure of water clarity.

MRDL Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

MRDLG Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

90% Value obtained after disregarding the 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels.

cfu Colony Forming Unit.

nd No Detection.

● ** Follow-up sampling showed no contamination present.